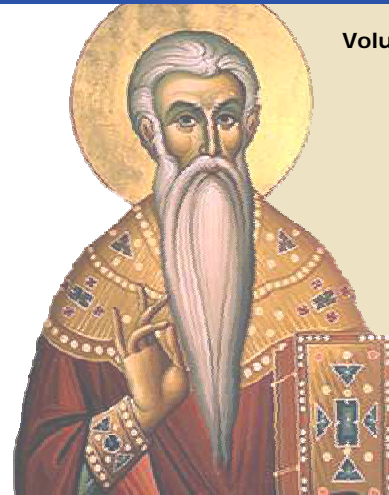


in Touch

Volume 17, Issue 5

May 2009



The Official Publication of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

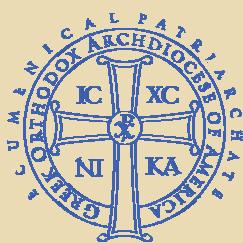
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*“O Christ our God,
You ascended in glory...”*

The Ascension of Our Lord
Thursday, May 28

Lord, You know that men are flesh and blood; forgive them their sins and pour out Your blessing on all. — St. Haralambos

Fund Raising Committee

Mission Statement

"Activities of the committee will focus on the establishment of Money Earning Projects for the Building Fund. Total support is solicited to guarantee our Building Program success."

Committee

John Obren, who helped organize the early and accelerated pay-off of our Mortgage and the property at 75th Ave. & Greenway Road, will direct our fund raising committee. John's immediate goal is to raise building funds as quickly as possible so that we can begin building our new Church Home. John is looking for motivated volunteers to assist his committee in this exciting endeavor.

Mike Danielek is the co-chair. John has already begun to design a ½ page advertisement soliciting donations from every Greek Orthodox Community in the United States that will appear in the November 'Orthodox Observer'. He is assisted by Nick Milonas, who brings his technological expertise to St. Haralambos's fund raising activities.

Objectives of the Fund Raising Committee

The objectives of this new and exciting monthly report will be to:

1. Motivate, solicit and energize our parishioners to submit a 'Building Fund' pledge;
2. Promote and solicit donations from each Greek Orthodox Parish in North America and the 686,910 readers of the 'Orthodox Observer' beginning this November, 2009. John has solicited and successfully received the \$2,200 needed to advertise in the 'Observer';
3. Create, design and implement fund raising activities throughout the year in order to maintain and create enthusiasm for the fund raising activities (something new every 3 months);
4. Promote cash raffles 3 times per year beginning May 3rd with our first \$10,000 CASH raffle (2nd Prize: \$3,000; and 3rd Prize: \$2,000. (Only 500 tickets, per

raffle, will be sold). Total funds per year for the 3 raffles could amount to \$105,000 to the 'building fund';

5. Generate and petition donations (Commemoratives) for the Iconography, Liturgical Furniture, educational furniture and equipment to furnish our new Church building and Worship, Fellowship, Administrative and Educational spaces;
6. To support the awareness of the need for additional building funds to be used for the future planning and construction of the new Church and Educational Building(s);
7. Keep our parishioners informed on a month-to-month basis. The committee will be available to answer questions at anytime. Please contact John Obren at: jpobren2@cox.net or Mike Danielek at: mdanielek1@cox.net

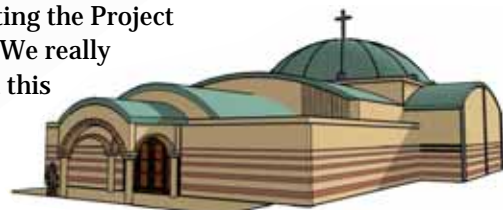
Status of the Fund Raising Capital Campaign to Date

Our previous fund raising committee generated approximately \$600,000 in pledges. We thank Peter Retsinas and Bill Retsinas for their success to date.

Though we had initial success, our campaign has stalled at 52 Campaign Pledges. Despite the fact that current economic times are difficult, please consider submitting a pledge form as soon as you possibly can. We will need your pledges to begin the application process for the construction loan. We need as many of you as possible, to underwrite a pledge as speedily as possible.

We must now stimulate our campaign!

During our previous successful fund raising drives, the total support percentage of our Stewardship pledges was over 60%. Presently, we have only 35% participation of our Stewards supporting the Project (Building Fund). We really need your help at this moment.





What Happened After the Resurrection

What happened after the Resurrection of Jesus Christ? What did his disciples do? Where did they go? How did the church begin? These questions, and more, are answered in a very important New Testament book, called the Acts of the Apostles. (Excerpts from the Book of Acts are read each Sunday during the Easter season.) It was written by St. Luke, author of the third Gospel, and, like a good historian, his intent was to write about the events of Christ and the apostles, after the resurrection.

It's an amazing story that begins with Jesus' ascension into heaven and continues with the feastday of Pentecost. We learn that on Pentecost, about 3,000 people were baptized! They didn't use baptismal fonts as we do today; they found locations along river banks or streams as John the Baptist did.

St. Luke then goes on to speak about how the apostles began traveling into different cities to teach about the resurrection of Christ, and to establish churches – not buildings, but groups of people

that believed in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. These early Christian communities usually met in houses or in catacombs (underground cemeteries), but secretly, because they could be arrested at any time for believing in Jesus.

Then in the 9th Chapter, we learn about St. Paul, who before his baptism, was capturing and arresting many Christians. He has a dramatic change-of-life event, and the remaining 19 chapters of the Book of Acts center on his thousand-mile long journeys to spread the Christian Gospel and establish more and more churches. It is this same St. Paul who authored nearly two-thirds of the New Testament, with his letters (epistles) to the churches he established.

There are many other early Christian writers who describe the life of the Christian Church, mostly through letters, and other historians (both Christian and Jewish) that document events in early Christian history. One of the most ancient is, The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles, dating from the 2nd century AD. Here we read about the early

Christian liturgy (centuries before St. John Chrysostom) and about the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion.

It was very dangerous for Christians to openly acknowledge their faith in Christ, as we do today. There was always the fear of persecution, imprisonment, even death. It wasn't until Emperor Constantine the Great, in the early 4th century, not only legalized Christianity, but made it the official religion of the Roman Empire.

Today, during the Easter season, we boldly proclaim, "Christ is risen!" But we should also remember that throughout Christian history – in some places, continuing to this day - Christians do so at great risk.

Nothing in the history of mankind has been able to stop the spread of the Christian gospel. May we never take it for granted, and continue, as did the earliest Christians, to keep our faith in God strong and vibrant.

Nothing in the history of mankind has been able to stop the spread of the Christian gospel.



**St. Haralambos
Greek Orthodox
Church**

Rev. Michael Pallad

www.stharalambos.org

Sunday Worship

September - May
Matins: 8:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy: 10 a.m.

June - August
Matins: 8:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy: 9:30 a.m.

Office

623-486-8665
10320 N. 84th Ave., Peoria, AZ 85345
Office@StHaralambos.phxcoxmail.com
FrMichael@StHaralambos.phxcoxmail.com

Hours

Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Parish Council

Ray Wysmierski, President
Mike Danielek, Vice-President
Mary Wysmierski, Secretary
Stella Pagos, Treasurer
Angie Cholas
Dave Fredericksen

Mary Manos
George Retsinas
Peter Retsinas
Roberta Szklarski
Katherine Tally
Peter Tremoulis

General Assembly

The Spring General Assembly will be held on Sunday, May 3, in the Social Hall. We will be discussing important updates to our Building Program as well as subjects pertaining to the administration and activities of our parish. Our Philoptochos will be providing a light lunch, and we hope everyone will make the time to attend this meeting.

Parishioner Profile

Our spotlighted parishioner this month is Olga Fredericksen. Olga attended school in San Jose, CA. She graduated from San Jose State with a degree in teaching. While at St. Nicholas Ranch she met Dave Fredericksen and it was love at first sight. They were married in 1987 and have 2 sons, Chris 21 and John 18.

Last year Olga volunteered a kidney to a friend. She was a 100% match. Both ladies came through the surgery with flying colors.

Last month Olga was nominated as Teacher of the Week by one of her third grade students through KNIX. The following week she received the highest award the City of Peoria gives, The Pride of Peoria Award.

Olga coaches two 5th & 6th grade basketball teams thru the YMCA.

We are truly blessed to have Olga and the rest of the Fredericksen family as part of our congregation.



Parish Council Corner

By Ray Wysmierski, President

How time is flying around us, Pascha is here and gone. We hope and pray that this Lenten Season has been a blessed one for you. As our Parish celebrates the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we wish to take this opportunity to say "thank you".

Many thanks to all those who contribute their time, talents, and financial support to our parish during this time of year.

I want to especially acknowledge Father Michael, Dean Milonas, Greg Krotcha and the storage building organizer Stella Pagos for getting the "house in order".

I also want to report that the Spring General Assembly in May is very important as we will be making important decisions regarding our future home. Please make every effort to be there so you can share the joy and excitement in the next chapter in the life of St. Haralambos Parish.

Even in the midst of all our financial blessings (debt free) we continue to grow our Stewardship and Capital Campaign, however we are still financially challenged. With the economic challenges of our day, unlike any seen in decades, our Parish Council needs your help more than ever.

We will be discussing the new Parish campus and the plan to get us onsite in the near future with some modifications to our original plans. Our Capital Campaign has some very aggressive goals to meet and we need to accelerate the campaign efforts. So please examine your hearts to make your commitment soon.

We are grateful to all of those who have dedicated their time, talent and hard work to help us achieve our accomplishments. We thank all of you for your faithfulness and love of God expressed in your offerings of care in support of our Lord's Parish of St. Haralambos.

Sunday School

By Mike Danielek, Director

As we close out another year, our Sunday School staff would like to thank each of you who have supported us. I firmly believe that the future of our Church, the vitality of our stewardship and the Spiritual vigor of our parishioners will increase many folds because of the positive participation that we have experienced each Sunday during our school year.

Our staff of Martha Stithem (Pre-School), Connie Scouffas (Kindergarten and Primary), Andriana Henson (4th, 5th, & 6th), Monique Klabis (7th & 8th) and Mike Danielek (Jr. & Sr. High School), Olga Fredericksen (Assistant School Director, Greek Dancing Instructor/Sponsor), Chryss Danielek, Presv. Kristin, Margaret Michailidis (volunteers, special programs) would like to take this opportunity to express gratitude to our parents who have made the effort to attend Divine Liturgy and prepare your children for class each Sunday.

As we close out our year, we will be having our annual 'End of The Year'

celebration after Services on May 17th. Parents, please make an extra special effort to have your students in Church on that day. Each instructor will bring them forward with their classmates and recognize their attendance and participation this year.

This July we will begin registering our students for next year. The notice for next year will be in the July 'In-Touch' as well as how to pick up the sign-up forms.

Have a wonderful summer break. We hope to see all of you on the opening day of our instructional year, the Sunday after Labor Day weekend.

One last note, Monique Klabis will be leaving us this year. She is being transferred to another position with the U.S. Marshall Service. We wish her well and may God Bless Monique and her daughter Kiera. We will need an 7th & 8th grade instructor for next year. If you are interested, please contact the Church office or you can email me at mdanielek1@cox.net or call me.

Coffee Hour

Thank You to Our Coffee Hour Hosts/Sponsors

Apr. 5	Papamatheakis Family
Apr. 12	Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon
Apr. 19	Easter
Apr. 26	Available
May 3	Philoptochos - General Assembly
May 10	Peter & Lee Retsinas, Chris & Lourdes Kotsobies
May 17	Jim & Elizabeth Gorman
May 24	Available
May 31	Available

Note: Due to publication printing deadlines, any modifications or changes to coffee hour listing will be noted in next month's newsletter.

Philoptochos

By Charlotte Servetas, President

"To them that love God all things work together unto good." Romans 8:28.

Thanks to all who helped during the Lenten Journey with the many activities: including preparing Kolyva for three Saturdays of Souls Services, hosting meals following Pre-Sanctified Liturgy on Wednesdays, The Palm Sunday Fish dinner, decorating Icons and the Epitaphios, dyeing eggs, and hosting the Anastasi reception.

Reminder: We are a philanthropic society always looking for women with new ideas and talent. Won't you join us?

Attention: Have you sent us your favorite Greek recipes? We are compiling a new cook-book. Entries may be submitted to the church office or a Philoptochos member by May 10.

Next meeting: May 11 at 7 p.m. Election day!

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



Briami (Tourlou)

Ingredients

- 1 Lg. Eggplant
- 2 Med. Zucchini
- 3 Ribs Celery
- 1 Lg. Onion
- 1 Lg. Potato
- 2 Cloves Garlic (minced)
- 1/3 Cup Veg. Oil
- 8 oz can Tomato Sauce
- 1 Cup Water
- 2 Bay Leaves
- Salt & Pepper to taste

Directions

Cut vegetables into bite-size pieces and toss with oil, tomato sauce and water. Season with salt and pepper. Pour all into baking pan and top with bay leaves. Bake uncovered in preheated 400 oven for 1 hour, stirring occasionally. Then cover pan with aluminum foil and continue baking at 350 for an additional 60-90 minutes till vegetables are tender.

St. Christopher's Bookstore

Frank Schaefer, Letters to Father Aristotle: A Journey through Contemporary American Orthodoxy, 1995, 213pp.

Bishop Basil (Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese) describes this book as "a wake up call...to face positive and negative realities of our world which...are impacting the Church."

Archbishop Dimitri (Orthodox Church of America) says Frank Schaeffer is one of the "prophetic voices" calling us to realize that "forces of this world...want to destroy the Church [and] the precious Truth...entrusted to her [which] is essential for the life of the world...and this cannot be mitigated. These voices will offend—so be it!"

Bishop Isaiah (Greek Orthodox Diocese of Denver) insists, "If the reader believes in the one Church, which the Lord Jesus Christ established..., then the reader must read this book."

As the title suggests, Mr. Schaeffer addresses various issues of faith and tradition by answering questions posed to a "Fr. Aristotle". The creation of Fr. Aristotle and the letters written to him are clever devices which make the book very readable, not didactic or pedantic.

Here are some of the topics listed in the "Table of Contents" and quotes from those letters.

VI Politics and the Orthodox Church

People "may gain some short term advantage for...the Greek community by playing politics with the Orthodox Church, but in the long run the Church will be the loser."

VIII The answer to discouragement

"Along with having unique ability to contemplate...comes unique responsibility to learn...what is truly real...and sacred in this life."

XII Bringing Orthodox prodigals back to Church - Revitalizing the Orthodox Church in the West

"I do not long for more of what Hollywood...can offer. I long for what the Orthodox Church alone can offer—the

Truth and forgiveness."

"Young people must be taught that the "Church is against abortion,...euthanasia, [and] fetal experimentation. We must teach them the holiness of life."

XIV Mistaken premise of the secular environmental movement

"Modern environmentalists borrow...moral language...

from our Christian religious system when it is convenient while denying the ultimate truth of that system."

XXIV The real way to become one with other Christians

"Politically negotiated unity brushes authentic differences under the carpet."

XXV The firebreak principle—How to protect ourselves from the spirit of the world

"All that is needed to...corrupt the Orthodox Church and Her worship practices is the passage of time...and the attitude that only the big things matter, [for] old-fashioned traditions to quietly slip into disuse, as quiet as grandmother lying in her coffin."

Mr. Schaeffer's writing is very direct, blunt, maybe even offensive to some readers—but never boring.



Stewardship

By Roberta Szklarski

Although they are different terms, the concepts of Stewardship and Tithing are the same. The fact remains that the minimum Biblical standard of giving is the tithe. Stewardship comes from the Greek word "*oikonomia*", or economy, which means management of the house or household. In the New Testament, it means man's management of his whole life in response to God's love.

The modern use of the word Stewardship can be justified by St. Paul's use of the term "*oikonomia*" when he writes in First Corinthians, "*For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship.*" (1Corinthians 9:17)

Man is a steward, a manager of the "time", "talents" and "treasures" that God

has given to him. God as Creator gives us time by granting us life, our very existence. God as Giver of all gifts, grants us our abilities and talents. God as Maintainer, provides for our needs by affording us opportunities to earn a living.

If I believe that God is the Giver, the Owner, and I the manager, then it follows that a Steward trusts the Bible's directions on how to manage God's gifts. God expects us to give Him thanks by managing our gifts of "time", "talent" and "treasure" according to His will.

"More is required for the person to whom more is given..." (Luke 12:48) The more we have been blessed, the more we are expected to return back to Him. The more we return those blessings, the more we will receive. That is the Orthodox way of life!



Treasurer's Report January to March 2009

ORDINARY INCOME

Stewardship	\$35,787
Candle and Tray Collection	4,181
Pascha	-0-
Christmas	285
Rental Property	1,425
Miscellaneous	750

OTHER INCOME

Investment Income	-2,362
Bookstore	50
Festival	468

SPECIFIED DONATIONS

Bldg Fund	8,994
Memorials	25
Choir	1,000
Misc	1,950
	\$52,553

EXPENSES

Salaries and Benefits	\$23,372
Diocese Assessments	3,400
Capital Improvements	500
New Bldg Expense	2,330
Charity	1,000

OPERATING EXPENSE

Utilities	4,152
Facility Maintenance	2,134
Office	2,490
Candles	511
Bookstore	71
Holiday Expense	336
Insurance	1,411
Religious	157
Choir	650
Educational	156

\$42,670

NET INCOME

\$9,883



Birthdays



William Georgen (3rd)
 Terry Parks (3rd)
 Demetrios Tremoulis (3rd)
 Charlotte Servetas (5th)
 Shirley Germenis (8th)
 Megan Pallad (10th)
 Effie Watters (11th)
 Alexandria Francis (15th)
 Melani Ioannou (16th)
 Helene Georgiou (17th)
 Aristithi Vardalos (18th)
 Alexandra Pallad (19th)
 Nicoletta Theoharatos (21st)
 Dena Waters (21st)
 Katherine Stithem (26th)
 Ann Morley (28th)
 Barbara Hartsell (29th)
 Jaden Albrant (30th)

If you don't see your name, or those of family members, and would like to be included on the monthly birthday listing, please send the information to the church office.

Assisted Living/Hospitalization

The following parishioners may not be able to be with us physically, but are still loved members of our parish, and we ask you to please remember them in prayer: Orin Davis, Fannie Huzinec, John and Mary Karavaras, and Helen Sigel.

Name Days

Many years/*Chronia Polla* to those named after the following saints:

St. Irene (5th)	St. Pachomios the Great (15th)
Prophet Job (6th)	St. Symeon (24th)
St. Christopher (9th)	Sts. Constantine and Helen (21st)
St. Glykeria (13th)	Sts. Theodosios and Theodosia (29th)



All Saints Camp 2009

Sunday, June 7- Friday, June 12

For campers entering 4th grade through Senior in High School.
 (Entering 3rd grade may be added depending on interest.)

All Saints Camp is a sleep-away camp in Flagstaff, Arizona that offers volleyball, basketball, archery, a tree-top ropes course, Capture-the-Flag, hiking, nightly bonfires, games, arts and crafts, organized Olympics and more- all within an Orthodox setting with daily Matins, Vespers and Christ-centered lessons.

**6 days, 5 nights, all meals and transportation*
 for only \$250 per camper!**

*Transportation to Flagstaff from either St. Katherine's Church in Chandler or Holy Trinity Cathedral in Phoenix and return.

For more information contact the 2009 directors:
 Kathy Clarke 602.757.1025 or kathyclarke@cox.net or
 Kristen Vasilarakos 602.332.8809 or kvasilarakos@cox.net
 Supported by the Arizona Council of Eastern Orthodox Churches

MAY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy St. Thomas Sunday General Assembly	4 Metropolis Clergy Laity Assembly	5 Metropolis Clergy Laity Assembly 6:00pm Quilting Class	6	7 7:00pm Choir	8	9
10 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Mother's Day	11 7:00pm Philoptochos	12	13	14 7:00pm Choir	15	16
17 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Sunday School Graduation	18	19 6:00pm Quilting Class	20	21 9am Divine Liturgy Sts. Constantine and Helen 7:00pm Choir	22	23
24 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy	25 Memorial Day (Church Office closed)	26 6:00pm Quilting Class	27	28 9am Divine Liturgy Ascension of Christ 7:00pm Choir	29	30
31 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy						